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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Masajiro Iwasaki

Application No.: 10/619,497

Confirmation No.: 8847

Filed: July 16, 2003

Art Unit: 2171

For: IMAGE CLASSIFICATION METHOD,
IMAGE FEATURE SPACE DISPLAYING
METHOD, PROGRAM, AND
RECORDING MEDIUM

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits as far as is known to the undersigned (37 CFR 1.97(b)(3)). A summary/abstract translation of the non-English language reference is enclosed. The references cited in this IDS were cited during prosecution of a corresponding European patent application. A copy of the European Search Report is also enclosed.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(b) exists. In accordance with 37 CFR 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure statement shall not be construed to be an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to therein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the listed references.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1073, under Order No. R2184.0240/P240. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: July 15, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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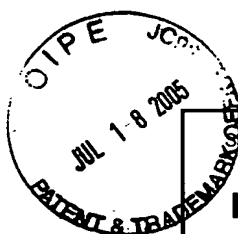
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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/619,497-Conf. #8847
				Filing Date	July 16, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Masajiro Iwasaki
				Art Unit	2171
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	R2184.0240/P240

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	BA	EPO 62097984	10/31/1988			Abstract Only

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
	CA	WEN, et al., A Distributed Hierarchical Clustering System for Web Mining, WAIM 2001, LNCS 2118, pgs 103-113, 2001	
	CB	STAN et al., Image Retrieval Using a Hierarchy of Clusters, ICAPR 2001, LNCS 2013, pgs, 377-386, 2001	
	CC	VLEUGELS et al., Efficient Image Retrieval Through Vantage Objects, Visual '99, LNCS 1614, pgs 575-585, 1999	
	CD	JAIN et al., Data Clustering: A Review, ACM Computing surveys, Vol. 31, No. 3, September 1999	
	CE	NATSEV et al., WALRUS: A Similarity Retrieval Algorithm for Image Databases, SIGMOD '99, Philadelphia, PA	

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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